

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 EB-07
COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /054 W
-----241904Z 025821 /46

R 241420Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3387
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0466

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, NS
SUBJ: ILO-63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF : (A) STATE 102699, (B) STATE 104945

1. SUMMARY: SURINAM IS INCLINED TO SUPPORT U.S. OBJECTIVES OF ELIMINATING EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL SLOGANEERING FROM ILO AND ENSURING DUE PROCESS FOR LEGITIMATE CONSIDERATIONS BUT WILL BALANCE OFF THIS PREDISPOSITION WITH CONCERN IT SHARES WITH CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS WHO WANT TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION ON ILO GOVERNING BODY.

2. DURING MAY 23 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, SURINAM'S MINISTER OF LABOR FRITS FRIJMERSUM (WHO WILL HEAD GOS DEL TO ILO CONFERENCE) SAID SURINAM SHARES U.S. OBJECTIVES OF KEEPING IRRELEVANT POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS OFF THE AGENDA OF THE ILO AND BELIEVES THAT ITEMS WHICH ARE PROPER SUBJECTS OF CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. HE DESCRIBED SURINAM'S POSITION AS SUPPORTIVE OF THE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY THE GOVERNING BODY AND SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER FULLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRON (WHO IS ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER), WHO FULLY AGREES.

3. AT SAME TIME, FRIJMERSUM ADDED, SURINAM DOES NOT WANT TO BE ISOLATED FROM ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS (READ CARICOM MEMBERS), WHO COLLECTIVELY HAVE AN INTEREST IN GAINING AN ASSURED SEAT ON ILO'S GOVERNING BODY. REFERRING TO THE EXPIRATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S TERM ON THE GB IN 1978, HE SAID THE LATIN

AMERICANS DID NOT WANT TO SEE THIS SEAT GO TO ANOTHER CARIBBEAN STATE BUT WOULD PREFER TO TAKE IT FOR THEMSELVES. CONSEQUENTLY, FRIJMERSUM CONCLUDED, THE LABOR MINISTERS WHO RECENTLY MET AT GEORGETOWN HAD PUT OFF A DECISION ON WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE U.S. SPONSORED AMENDMENTS TO THE ILC STANDING ORDERS PENDING CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ILO MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE ASIANS AND AFRICANS, WHOSE VIEWS ON GUARANTEEING A CARIBBEAN SEAT ON THE GB WOULD BE CRUCIAL.

4. COMMENT: FRIJMERSUM MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CARIBBEAN "CAUCAS" WOULD BE LOOKING FOR TRADEOFFS AT THE CONFERENCE, WITH THEIR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE GB BEING A MAJOR CONSIDERATION. WHILE IT WOULD BE COMFORTING TO BELIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE MERITS OF THE CASE WOULD PRODUCE SUPPORT BY SURINAM AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES FOR THE EMINENTLY REASONABLE AMENDMENTS, IT IS THIS EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT SURINAM WILL JOIN OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES, IF THAT IS THEIR DECISION, IN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS DEPENDENT UPON OUR AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO A CONTINUING SEAT ON THE GB.

5. FOLLOWING IS SURINAM DELEGATION AS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED:
(A) GOVERNMENT: FRITS FRIJMERSUM, MINISTER OF LABOR AND PUBLIC HOUSING; DR. C.D. OOFI, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS; H.G. BAANK, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND PUBLIC HOUSING; G. KERSTEN, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND PUBLIC HOUSING; E. DOVER, SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS; I. WIP, ADVISER IN THE NURSING DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH; (B) EMPLOYERS: FRITS BAREND, CONFIDENTIAL

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CHAIRMAN, FEDERATION OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY; D.H. LIONG, CHIEF OF GENERAL AND PERSONNEL AFFAIRS, FOUNDATION FOR MECHANIZED AGRICULTURE (WAGENINGEN); (C) WORKERS, H. STAPHORST, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS (CLO); A. NEDERBIEL, MEMBER OF GOVERNING COMMITTEE OF FEDZIPOLCO (HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES FEDERATION).
ZURHELLEN

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